

The Iowa Collector

Official Publication of the
Iowa Numismatic Association

*The Iowa Numismatic Association
Established in 1938*



In This Issue:

**2007 Numismatist of the year
Award Presentation**

By: Denny Ross



**Spring 2008
Volume 49 Number 1**

<http://ina.anacclubs.org/>



70th Annual
IOWA
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION
COIN SHOW & CONVENTION

OCTOBER 11TH & 12TH, 2008

SATURDAY 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

SUNDAY 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

BRIDGE VIEW EVENT CENTER

102 CHURCH STREET

OTTUMWA, IOWA 52501

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Tables Full of Treasures

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★ Hourly Door Prizes ★

Need not be present to win

★ Raffle ★

Need not be present to win

Coin show hosted by the Ottumwa Coin Club

For Information:

Kenny Crowder - President (641) 777-0685

Jon Elbaum - General Manager (641) 682-0828

Denny Ross - Show Chairman (641) 932-2731

sixty2one@iowatelecom.net

The Iowa Collector

Official Publication Iowa Numismatic Association

Volume 49, Number 1

February 2008

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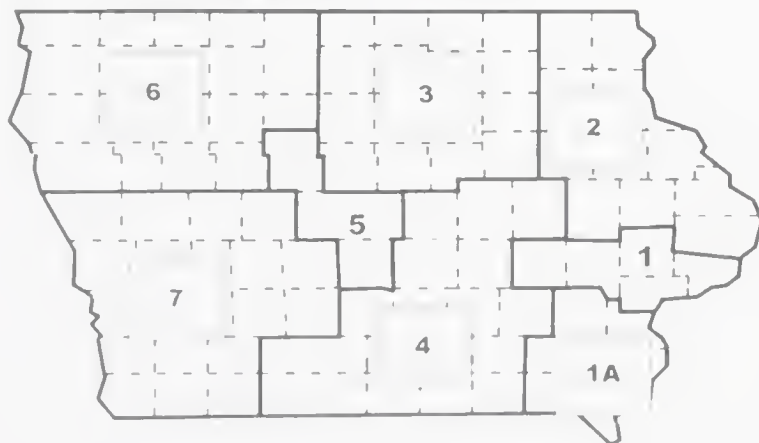
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Regional Districts



The Iowa Numismatic Association

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Established in 1928

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Open

EDITOR: THE IOWA COLLECTOR

Denny Ross 7079 189th St., Albia, IA 52531-8771
(641) 932-2731 sixty2one@iowatelecom.net

From the Editor

Would you like to see news of your club's activities covered in *The Iowa Collector*? The editor welcomes news of club happenings in the *Iowa Numismatic Associations* region. Send any information on your upcoming coin show, election of new officers and other club news and articles, prepared by club members, to the Editor. Include any photographs with your article, to make your story more interesting.

Send to: Editor, *The Iowa Collector*
7079 189th Street
Albia, Iowa 52531-8771
Sixty2one@iowatelecom.net

Presidents Message

President John Jackson



2008! As we look forward to this new year I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and a happy new year.

Looking back on 2007 we added many new friends to the hobby and lost a few that we will dearly miss. The Shows for the year had their ups and downs but the hobby as a whole is doing very well. We Started the year with a blizzard at the Nevada show which slowed things down considerably. The Ames coin club was still greatly appreciated by those that made it to the show. The summer show, in Altoona, had a great crowd and at the INA fall show in Storm Lake we had an attendance of about 300 people, which was in line with estimates for a small city show.

A few ideas that were brought up over the year. One that has merit, was to contact your local library to see if they would join the association so that a copy of 'The Iowa Collector' would be available in each city. I would like to see anyone, that has time, to stop by and talk to your local librarian. Local clubs or dealers could donate a membership in their town. Also brought up was a suggestion to have the INA State Show in one location each year, in a larger city to increase attendance, instead of moving the show around the state. Now, for the new year we will start again in Nevada at the end of February. I hope the weather cooperates so we can have a good show and see our friends there.

The State Show will be in Ottumwa this fall and we will have a very large number of dealers attending and hopefully we can have a great crowd to support them.

In closing, I urge everyone to take some extra time, this year, out of our busy schedules to enjoy family and friends of this great hobby and to support your local, state and regional clubs and all the great work they do for the hobby.

John Jackson

FROM THE SECRETARIES DESK

Christmas is coming upon me quicker than I expected. I really don't know where the time has gone. It's really a busy time of year for everybody. I hope everyone was able to enjoy the season with family. Many thanks to John Jackson and the Storm Lake Coin Club for putting together the 2007 INA Show Convention. What a great facility! Everyone was impressed.

What is the bullion market doing lately? It seems to jump around like crazy anymore. I know we have a hard time staying on top of the market. As I am writing this silver is just about \$14.30 and gold is about \$800.00

Remember, dues are now \$10.00 a year

Beverly Ashton
INA Secretary/Treasurer

INA BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES

The INA officers hold three board meetings each year and one open membership meeting. These meetings are held in conjunction with a coin show. The annual board meeting is held during the INAs Annual Coin Show & Convention which is hosted by a different Coin Club each year. The INA's officers board meeting is held the evening of the first day of the INA coin show and the open membership meeting is conducted on the morning of the second day of the INA coin show.

Regular INA Board meetings:

February 23, 2008 at Coin-a-Rama, Nevada, Iowa

July 12, 2008 at Central Iowa Coin & Stamp Expo, Altoona, Iowa

October 11, 2008 at Annual INA Coin Show, Ottumwa, Iowa

October 12, 2008 Open membership meeting, Ottumwa, Iowa

President John Jackson called the meeting to order. The minutes were read. George Shook moved they be accepted, Gordon Weber seconded and the minutes were approved. The Treasurers report was given with a balance of \$6,799.05 in the general fund and \$1,420.40 in the ICTA fund. Gordon moved that it be accepted and Denny Ross seconded and the report was approved.

Tom Robertson asked whether or not the INA was still deriving benefits from ICTA. After some discussion as to how we should be behind them in this endeavor it was decided we would leave things the way they are for now. As was discussed at another board meeting, the ICTA fund was money donated for the tax fight and needed to be used as such. So for now we will continue to pay ICTA dues out of this fund.

The mailing status for The Collector was discussed. Bev Ashton just received a letter of denial from USPS. They said we didn't qualify as being educational and because of our IRS status we were more of a fraternal/social organization. It was decided we needed to try to document all of the different talks that members give and see if we could get the designation changed through the IRS and then reapply for the non-profit mailing status.

Chris Seuntjens brought up the suggestion again about going to local libraries and see if they would like to sign up for the INA and get on The Collector mailing list. If they were approached with the idea of how many people in their local area were coin club members and how useful the publication could be to others in the community they may be persuaded to join.

Denny said the next issue of The Collector is full. Previously, the shows in The Collector calendar did not list a contact person. They will now list a contact person and phone number.

The 2008 INA in Ottumwa is coming along good. Denny says he already has commitments for 40-50 tables. 2008 will be the INA's 70th Show and we should do a medal. This would be an INA expense. Denny will investigate costs and report on this at our February meeting. Where will the 2009 INA be held? It was noted that we were probably due to be in central Iowa, so Sam Ashton said he would check with the Fort Dodge Coin Club and see if they would be willing to host the INA in 2009.

Gordon motioned that we adjourn. the meeting was adjourned.

Members present: Sam Ashton, Chris Seuntjens, Denny Ross, John Jackson, Ron Burns, Gordon Weber, Tom Robertson, Robert Simon, George Shook, Dean parr & Bev Ashton.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Ashton

INA Secretary-Treasurer

Financial Statement: September 1, 2006 - October 31, 2007

Starting Balances:	INA REGULAR	ICTA FUND
	\$3,614.70	\$1,659.93
Receipts		
Medals	947.00	
Dues	2,164.00	
Ads	1,535.00	Interest 10.47
Interest	15.52	
DM INA Show	884.10	
Contributions	<u>70.00</u>	<u>10.47</u>
	5,615.62	
Expenses		
CR Club - Sec Room	46.24	
Awards	90.00	
Collector Printing	1,057.88	ICTA Dues 250.00
Collector Postage Labels	227.06	
Computer Set-up	576.17	
Computer Cartridges	33.91	
INA App Printing	50.00	
Membership Card Printing	97.52	250.00
Engraving	18.34	
Postage	200.32	
Central State Dues	10.00	
Copies	23.83	
	<u>2,431.27</u>	
Current Balances	6,799.05	1,420.40
Checking	4,496.98	
Savings	2,262.07	1,420.40
Cash	40.00	
	<u>6,799.05</u>	<u>1,420.40</u>

From the Editors Desk

Well, here it is February 2008 already and the coin market is still going strong. It is amazing how this strong market has brought out some of the rarest coins in numismatics to be sold at several of the large auction houses. We have seen new discoveries in varieties plus coins that were not known to exist. It will be interesting to see what will occur in 2008.

We have also seen the strongest rise in precious metals prices since the early 1980s. How long this bullish market will continue remains to be seen. By all indications it appears it will be with us for quite some time.

2007 also brought the INA and its members a newly revised quarterly educational news journal. The overhaul of "The Iowa Collector" was long overdue. It has been challenging and also rewarding, for this editor, to improve the quality and integrity of our organizations official publication, and at the same time has been very educational. It has been with the input and help of many others that "The Iowa Collector" has become a quality product that the the INA and its members can be proud of..

I look forward, this year, to any and all suggestions and input that will help to continually improve the quality and integrity of "The Iowa Collector".

Editor: The Iowa Collector

Denny Ross

7079 189th Street

Albia, IA 52531-8771

Sixty2one@a iowatelecom.net

Call For Nominations

In accordance with the bylaws of the Iowa Numismatic Association, I hereby make the official call for nominations for the offices of the I.N.A. for the year of 2008-2009. Any members in good standing may nominate a candidate for the offices of President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Directors. You may nominate people from your own district to serve as District Directors but no more than two Directors from any one district. In addition, candidates for Director-at-Large may be nominated. Nominations must be mailed to Second Vice President, George Shook, at 920 South 1st, Oskaloosa, IA 52577, no later than July 31, 2008. Ballots will then be mailed to each member of the I.N.A. so their vote may be mailed to the Secretary.

Remember, under the format, each member has a voice in the election and need not be present at the I.N.A. Convention to be heard. In accordance with the bylaws, the chair positions (President, Vice President) must be filled by persons who have served as Directors or Officers of the I.N.A. It is your privilege to exercise your right, as a member, to nominate and vote. Please be sure to exercise your right.

SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Tom Robertson (319) 351-2512 tdrobertson1@auno.com

Programs on - Seated Liberty series; 1/2 dime, dimes, quarters.
Half dollars & seated dollars. Barber series; dimes, quarters & half
dollars, 1/2 cents, large cents, two cents, silver three cents & nickel
three cents. Clubs & Organizations.

Dale Dye (319) 351-3006

Programs on - Shields nickels, Liberty nickels, Buffalo nickels &
Jefferson nickels.

Brian Fanton (319) 294-4377

Programs on - Grading, Boy and Girl Scout merit badges programs
Slabbing, The 'Art of coin collecting 'and general numismatic
topics.

Ron Burns (319) 447-0996 coinguy39@hotmail.com

Program on - The History of coinage 'Ancients thru colonials.

Dean Parr (319) 366-0552 drparr@mchsi.com

Programs on - Foreign coins & World paper money.

Denny Ross (641) 932-2731 sixty2one@rowatelecom.net

Program on - Lincoln cents 1909 thru 1958.

Lee Roe (563) 852-3517 hilltopcoin@netins.net

Programs on - Buying and selling coin collections. Slabbing.

Steve Feller.....(319) 393-7052 sfeller@coe.edu

Programs on - POW Scrip, WW II Concentration Camp money, Civil
War money, The New Orleans mint, Ancient coins, and other topics.

SHOW COORDINATOR

John Jackson (712) 276-1366 jjcom@a-cableone.com

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Lee Roe (563) 852-3517 hilltopcoin@netins.net

WEBMASTER

Dean Parr (319) 366-0552 drparr@mchsi.com

When and where Coin Clubs Meet

Ames ----- Last Wednesday, Senior Citizens Center, 7:30 PM Scott Nichols (515) 232-9222

Burlington ----- Last Tuesday, Midwest One Bank, Roosevelt & Division Streets, 7:30 PM, Gary Kirby, (319) 752-4098

Cedar Rapids ----- Third Wednesday, Farmers Merchant Bank, 600 Boyson Road NE, 7:30 PM, Brian Fanton (319) 294-4377 <http://creeclanclubs.org>

Clarion - Fourth Thursday, Pizza Ranch on Main St, 7:00 PM, Harry Peters (641) 762-3735

Decorah ----- First Tuesday, V. F. W. Building basement, 104 State St 7:30 PM, Dave Sanderson (563) 568-2371

Dubuque ----- First Thursday, Bridge Restaurant, 31 Locust St, 7:00 PM Neil Aitchison (563) 556-5254

Des Moines -- First Tuesday, St. Marks Episcopal Church, 3120 E 24th, 7:00 PM, Roscoe Simmons (515) 262-6008

Fort Dodge ---- Second Thursday, ICCV Voc. Tech Bldg., 330 Ave M, 7:30 PM, Sam Ashton (515) 573-3033

Grinnell ----- Second Monday, Community Center (Senior Citizens Room) 7:30 PM, George Fowler (641) 236-3549

Hiawatha ----- Fourth Wednesday (except June & July), Hiawatha Library, 150 Williams St, 7:00 PM, Brian Fanton (319) 294-4377

Irs City (Mt. Pleasant) ---- First Thursday, Bredeaux Pizza, 7:00 PM, Ken Reynolds (319) 385-3248

Keokuk ----- Fourth Thursday (Third Thursday in Nov. & Dec.), SCC's S Campus Student Lounge, 7:30 PM, Tom Gardener (319) 524-7366

Old Capitol (Iowa City) ----- Second Tuesday, Veteran's Administration Hospital (Third floor cafeteria), Hwy 6, 7:00 PM Tom Robertson (319) 351-2512

Oskaloosa --- Second Tuesday, Farm Bureau Building (basement), 7:30 PM Clarence & Gail McKee (641) 672-2763

Ottumwa - Fourth Tuesday, Albion Road Baptist Church, 1601 Albion Road (Basement), 7:00 PM, Denny Ross (641) 932-2731

Port City (Muscatine) - Fourth Tuesday (No meetings June, July, Aug), Holiday Inn, Muscatine, Hwys 61 & 38, 7:00 PM, Jim Burr (563) 262-9313

Quad City (Moline, IL) - Third Thursday, Garden Center, 5th Ave and 34th Street, 7:00 PM, Jeff Struve (309) 737-0206

Red Oak - Second Thursday, Regency Retirement Center, 6:30 PM, Richard Trinity (712) 829-2207

Siouxland (Sioux City) - J & J Coins & Collectibles, 901 Cecelia, John Jackson (712) 274-9195

Storm Lake - Second Tuesday, Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 119 West 6th Street, 7:30 PM, Russ Post (712) 284-2110

Wadena - Third Thursday, Historical Center, West Union, IA, 7:30 PM, Dr. James L. Ralls (319) 283-4440

Waterloo/Cedar Falls - Second Tuesday, Waterloo Arts & Recreation Center, First & Commercial Streets, 7:00 PM, Dennis Emme (319) 232-0662

Dear I.N.A. Member

The 2008 year is here. We encourage you to support the I.N.A. with your ad in *The Collector*. The rates are:

Full Page	\$100.00	Half Page	\$60.00
	Quarter Page	\$30.00	

Ad rates for private shows will be prorated from the normal yearly advertising rates.

Full page ads for I.N.A. Coin Clubs are \$10.00. Non I.N.A. Coin Clubs are \$25.00.

There are 3 issues of our deluxe publication, with a 4th issue when needed. Anyone would be proud to have their ad in *"The Collector"*. We try to get articles and information for the good of our members. We encourage everyone to write an article concerning Numismatic information which might help other collectors, especially our new members.

We must increase the price of our ads to keep up the quality of our publication.

Thank you for your sponsorship!

Chris Seuntjens

3427 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA 50310

THE IOWA COLLECTOR is published 3 time a year
Publication dates:
February, June & September

2008 Iowa Coin Show Calender

Feb. 17, Tri-State Coin Show Grey Hound Park & Casino, Park View Room
Dubuque, IA (9-4) Lee Roe (563) 852-3517

Feb. 23-24, Coin-A-Rama Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, IA (9-5), (9-3)
Scott Nichols (515) 232-9222

March 7-9 ANA's National Money Show Phoenix Convention Center,
Phoenix, AZ Contact: ANA Convention Dept. (719) 632-2646

March 9, Cedar Rapids Coin Show Elks Lodge, 801 33rd Ave. SW, Cedar
Rapids, IA (9-4) Dave Vaughn (319) 366-5463

Mar. 16 Port City Coin Show Holiday Inn, Junction 62 & 38 North
Muscatine, IA Jim Burr (563) 262-9313

Mar. 29-30 Fort Dodge Coin Show Crossroads Mall, 5th Ave. S & 25th Street
Fort Dodge, IA (10-6), (10-4) Sam & Bev Ashton (515) 573-3033

April 6 Quad City Coin Show Milan Community Center, Camden Park U. S.
route 67, Milan, Illinois (9-4) John R. Brixey (309) 788-8726

April 12 Clarion Coin Club Show Clarion High School, 1111 Willow Dr
Clarion, IA (9-4) Jeff Judson (515) 532-2356

April 17-19 Central States' 69th Anniversary Convention Rosemont, IL

April 20 Waterloo Coin Show Waterloo Recreation Center, West First and
Commerce Streets, Waterloo, IA (9-4) Dennis Emme (319) 232-0662

May 17-18 Keokuk Coin Show River City Mall, 300 Main Street, Keokuk, IA
(10-5) (12-5) Tom Gardener (319) 524-7366

July 12, Central Iowa Coin & Stamp Expo Adventureland Inn, Altoona, IA
(9-5) Chris Seuntjens (515) 251-4031 or Terry Holdridge (515) 964-1202

August 16-17 Iowa Great Lakes Coin Show Spirit lake Community Center,
North of Great Lakes mall (9-5) (9-3) Don McCulloch (712) 336-4618

Oct. 11-12, 70th Annual INA Coin Show Bridge view Center, 102 Church St
Ottumwa, IA Denny Ross (641) 932-2731

Oct 17 - 19 Moon Show Earl Brown Heritage Center, Minneapolis, MN

Join the Iowa Numismatic Association

Membership

Any Person interested in numismatics, over 18 years of age of good moral character may become a member upon recommendation of the membership committee. Dues are \$10.00 per year.

Object

The object of this corporation shall be to;

Encourage and promote the science of numismatics.

Cultivate fraternal relationships among coin collectors and students.

Foster the interest of youth in the subject.

Encourage and assist new collectors.

Stimulate and advance affiliations between our associations and kindred organizations in the United States and foreign countries.

Acquire and disseminate numismatic knowledge.

Generally represent numismatic interests throughout the State of Iowa.

Junior members

Any person between the ages of 0 and 18 years old and sponsored by a senior member may be considered for junior membership. Junior members may not hold office, but may vote for elective offices. Dues to be \$2.00 year.

Officers

Officers are elected every two years by membership vote, by mail ballot, and take office at the annual convention following election. Officers consist of 16 members, including the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents, the Secretary Treasurer, the immediate Past-President, and 11 Directors.

The annual membership meeting is held each year at the Iowa Numismatic Association's Annual Convention held in the fall

The Iowa Collector, the official bulletin, is published three times each year and sent to each member. The I N A, upon request, will help the heirs of any member in good standing find a qualified person or persons, in his area, to appraise and insure.

For further information about the I N A, contact any member, director or officer. An application has been enclosed with this issue of The Iowa Collector. To join fill it in and send it along with your check to

Beverly Ashton
615 Central Avenue
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 573-3033

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

I hereby make application for membership in the "IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION", subject to the provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and By-laws.

Send this application together with \$10.00 for the current years dues
Young applicants dues are \$2.00 per year until the age eighteen

Note: The I.N.A. year runs from January 1st to January 1st

Date _____

Applicants Name (please print)

Mailing address

City

State

Zip Code

Date and Year of Birth

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Proposer

I.N.A. or A.N.A. Number

For use of Secretary/Treasurer

NO

Date Received

The Iowa Numismatic Association welcomed the following new members to our organization in 2007

Peggy Chong	Des Moines, IA	Curtis Chong	Des Moines, IA
Mike Keatley	Bethaney, MO	Martin Corbin	Carroll, IA
Jack Streeter	Newton, IA	Carroll Ashland	Des Moines, IA
Jeffery Struve	Riverdale, IA	Sherri Lamb	Bettendorf, IA
Morris Leroy Keyt	Hartley, IA	DuWayne Donner	Council Bluffs, IA
Loren Stephens	Slater, IA	Dan Sumpter	Adel, IA
George Merchant	Des Moines, IA	Tom Overholzer	Indianola, IA
Michael Talton	Cedar Rapids, IA	Kermit Uhde	Ottumwa, IA
Roger Madden	Sioux City, IA	Hugh Martin	Hartley, IA
Patrick Clarahan	Monte Rose, IA	Fred Claiborne	Des Moines, IA
Loren Hatter	Loddsville, IA	Douglas Saboe	Des Moines, IA
Gary Sindelar	Des Moines, IA	Thomas Uhl	Des Moines, IA
Rich Johnson	Cherokee, IA	Brad Holder	Hinton, IA
David Allaway	Akron, IA	Michael R. Fiesel	Sioux City, IA
Mark Bruck	Storm Lake, IA	Danny Mok	Marion, IA
Ralph Vonnahme	Breda, IA	Kenny Crowder	Ottumwa, IA
Ron Matson	Papillion, NE	Ronald D. Reif	Fairfield, IA
Charles Osgood	Onawa, IA	Michael B. Doran	Greenup, IL
Gary Henderson	La Cruces, NM		

Mc Kee



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Port City Coin Club

Since 1938

Annual Coin Show

Sunday March 16th, 2008

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM



Holiday Inn

Jct. Highways 61 & 38 North

Muscatine, Iowa

Coins - Tokens - Currency

Public Welcome

Door Prizes

Free Admission

Free Parking

6 foot tables - \$25.00 each

Sponsored by: Port City Coin Club

P.O. Box 682

Muscatine, Iowa 52761

Information: Jim Burr (563) 262-9313

**Port City Coin Club meets the Fourth Tuesday 7:00PM
at the Holiday Inn, Hwy 61 & 38 North Muscatine, Iowa**

Visitors always Welcome

2007 Numismatist Of The Year Presentation



INA President John Jackson (left) presents the 2007 Numismatist Of The Year Award to Christopher Seuntjens

Chris has been, and continues to be, a central figure in the Iowa numismatic community. He has and continues to show his exemplary devotion to promoting the field of numismatics, not only on a personal level, but as past President of 'The Iowa Numismatic Association'. Chris continues to serve the INA in the capacity of the Advertising Coordinator for the INA's official publication 'The Iowa Collector'. Chris also revitalized the Des Moines Coin Club's INA coin show and chaired the show, after it had been dormant for several years.

Chris devoted his time and personal expense, (and his tenacity), to successfully get the sales tax, in Iowa, removed from collector coins, currency, tokens and precious metals. This has resulted in the collector of these items monetary savings on their purchases and has brought dealers from out of state to set up at coin shows in Iowa and has prevented the need for Iowa collectors to make purchases in tax exempt states.

He continually promotes the field of numismatics and continues his tireless pursuit of integrity, honesty and sincerity in a hobby he dearly loves and enjoys. It is because of the efforts of Chris', and many others, in the field of numismatics, that we, the collectors, enjoy such a great hobby.



Keokuk Coin Club Spring Coin & Hobby Show

May 17th & 18th, 2008



**River City Mall
300 Block of Main Street,
Keokuk, Iowa**

SAT. 10:00 - 5:00

SUN. 12:00 - 5:00

**Tables Full of Treasures
Open To The Public**

**Tables Available
For Information Call: (319) 524 -7366**

The Keokuk Coin Club meets the Fourth Thursday of each month (Third Thursday in Nov. & Dec.) SCC's S. Campus Student Lounge. 7:300 pm.
Visitors always Welcome



Quad City Coin Co.

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Buy - Sell - Trade

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FREE VERBAL APPRAISALS

At our Bettendorf, Ia Coin Shop

No collection to large or to small
We buy everything, US & Foreign

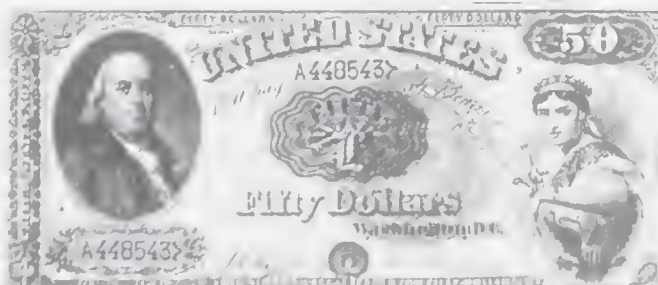
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Life Member of ANA, CSNS, INA, ILNA, NSDR

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Phone 563-332-9189 or e-mail mike@qccoin.com

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Trivia Quiz

1. What is the silver content of the inner core of the 1965 - 1970 silver clad half dollars?
A. .209 fine
B. .400 fine
C. .800 fine
D. None
2. Which of the following issues had an exact mintage of 100,000 coins?
A. 1909 S VDB cent
B. 1901 S Quarter
C. 1909 S Indian cent
D. 1893 S Dollar

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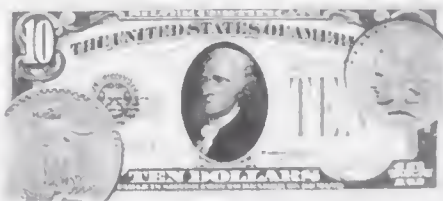
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History Of The Mercury Dime

By: Keith Scott



The year was 1915 and there was a movement afoot to change the remainder of American coinage. With the changes to the \$10 eagle, \$20 double eagle, the cent and nickel, it was now time for changes to the dime, quarter and half dollar. Under 1890 law, changes could not be made to a coin design without approval from congress more frequently than every 25 years. The Barber coinage (dime, quarter and half dollar) was to reach that mark in 1916 and the mint wasted no time in making the changes, in fact starting the process before 1916.

In 1915, U.S. mint director Robert W. Wooley offered the opportunity to three noted sculptors, Adolph A. Weinman, Albin Polasek and Herman A. McNeil to prepare designs for three silver coins. Outside artists, not chief engraver Charles Barber, supplied designs for the previous six changes and Wooley felt this was a great option. By 1916, Barber was 75 years old but had a track record of being hostile to outside artists designing coins he thought he should be designing. With three new designs, all replacing coins Barber himself had designed, it could have gotten unpleasant. The records suggest Barber was on his best behavior. In this case it seems he just stepped aside and let his assistant George T. Morgan, who had designed the Morgan dollar, do all the work. Maybe Barber finally just gave up or was to old too fight anymore. Or just recognized the beauty in the designs. Barber died in February 1917 and was replaced by Morgan.

It is assumed that Wooley intended to award a different coin to each person. It may not have been planned this way, but Weinman ended up getting two of his designs as winning designs. One being what become known as the Walking Liberty Half and the Mercury Dime. McNeil won the design for the quarter with Polasek getting shut out.

Aldoph A. Weinman was born in Germany and came to the U.S. at the age of 10 in 1880. He ws a student of well known sculptor Augustus Saint-gaudens. Saint-Gaudens is also credited with some truly outstanding coin designs. By 1915 when the design process began, Weinman was widely celebrated as one of the nation's best sculptors.

The design of the Mercury dime is that of a "Winged Mercury" and is based on a bust that Weinman did in 1913 of Elsie Kachel Stevens, wife of well known poet Wallace Stevens, who happened to be tenants of a New York City apartment building owned by Weinman. The winged cap was to symbolize freedom of thought. The reverse of the coin depicts the fasces,

an ancient symbol of authority, with a battle-axe at the top to represent preparedness and an olive branch beside it to signify love and peace and authority.



Production and release of the new dimes was delayed until later in the year of 1916 as the dies were not quite ready. The Philadelphia and San Francisco mint produced Barber dimes much of 1916 to meet the demand while Denver ceased producing Barber dimes in 1914. Once the dies were complete, production began with both Philadelphia and San Francisco cranking out millions of dimes. Denver though produced a mere 264,000 making the 1916-D an instant rarity.

Shortly after the dime began circulating, many people began calling it a "Mercury dime" due to the wings on the cap. Mercury is the Roman god of trade, property and wealth as well as messenger to the gods. The hat, called a Petasus, is similar to that worn by messengers during the time when Mercury was worshipped. Mercury gained his speed from his wings. Although not the original and intended name for the new dime, the term Mercury stuck and that is what it is known as today.

The Mercury dime served Americans through two world wars ending its run in 1945. With the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1945, there was a strong movement to honor the president and in 1946 the Roosevelt dime began production and is still used today.

General Collectibility.



The Mercury dime is a wonderful coin both for experienced and beginning collectors and is the most popular collected series in its denomination. A complete set including all keys can be had for under \$1,500.00 but the keys will be in very bad condition. A nicer set with all coins graded at least G4 including the keys can cost upwards of \$2,000.00 or more. If you want to establish a year collection, you can avoid the big cost of the 1916-D but still will need to shell out \$50 or more for a 1921 dated dime. Both mints P or D (San Francisco did not produce any) are considered keys. All other dates should be easily obtained. Many people collect what is called a short set consisting of all mints and years from 1934 to 1945 or 1941 to 1945. A short set of BU specimens from 1941 to 1945 is quite attractive.

Taking the three keys (discussed in a bit) out of the equation, all dates and mints can be had for under \$10.00 in G4 condition with the majority of them under \$3.00. Most coins after 1940 can be had for under \$1.00 in

(Continued next page)

pretty decent grades. As with many coins of the times, Philadelphia was the main producer of coins while Denver and San Francisco were generally much lower than Philadelphia. For the entire series, Philadelphia produced 65.9% of all dimes, Denver produced 17.8% of all dimes while San Francisco produced 16.3%, clearly making mint marked dimes a little tougher to get.

Production totals exceeded 50 million on 6 times prior to 1940 but never going over 67 million (1939). This total far exceeded production of the Barber dime but pails in comparison to later years of the Mercury dime. In 1941 production totals skyrocketed with Philadelphia producing 175 million dimes. For the last four years of production, totals never fell below 159 million. A total of 2.6 billion dimes were produced with over half, 56% being produced during the last 5 years with the four coinciding with WWII. An amazing statistic considering the Mercury dime was in production for 30 years. Of course many of those years were during the depression where coin production was low for all denominations.

When grading Mercury dime, the criteria changes somewhat in mint state coins. Coins that are fully struck have what is called Full Split Bands (FSB). This is in reference to the fasces where there are clear and fully defined horizontal bands with separation between them. Mint state coins with this definition will command premiums over their counterparts without this designation.

Key/Semi Key Dates.

Clearly, from a non-variety perspective, the 1916-D is the toughest and most expensive coin to obtain. Although not the rarest, is perhaps the most famous dime in U.S. history. Typically, first year issues are heavily hoarded and collected by the public which typically preserves many coins. Not so with the 1916-D as its rarity initially went unnoticed. With millions of them coming from Philadelphia and San Francisco, the public had not noticed that very few had the Denver mint mark. This is easily determined by the fact that so many 1916-D dimes are available in such low grades as so many of them circulated for more than 30 years. Another clear example is the stunning amount of 1916-D dimes discovered in the "New York Subway Hoard". The collectors of this hoard did not begin collecting until the 1940's, more than 25 years after the release of the 1916-D yet 251 examples of this special coin were in the hoard.

Coins in the lowest grade of FA2 or G3 will cost upwards of \$500.00 and the prices only go up from there. A VG8 is typically priced at \$1,300.00. While this coin is indeed pricey, it is readily available from dealers.

The second key of the series is the 1921-D followed closely by the 1921-P

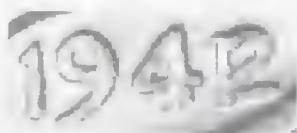
Both of these coins had mintage's of just over 1 million. Both of these coins will cost over \$50.00 for a G VG grade.

From here, the cost of individual coins drops dramatically as the next semi-keys are the 1926-S and 1931-D. Both of these can be had for under \$10.00 in low grades.

A note about low grades: While you can obtain these rarities in low grades, eye appeal is NOT their strong point. Coins in AG-G condition typically show the date partial date and mint mark. It is generally tough to make out details on the coins as they are well worn. I quote prices in G4 as to give you an idea of what minimum prices are for keys and semi-keys. Prime examples in the coins noted above can run into the 10's of thousands of dollars.

While the 1945-P coins is readily available in all grades, FSB specimens are extremely rare. Many common dates of the 1940's have dozens graded in the MS-67 range while the 1945-P currently has only 3 certified PCGS coins.

Errors.



Perhaps the next best known error in the Mercury dime series is the 1942/1 over-date. These were produced at both Denver and Philadelphia with the Philadelphia variety popularity near the 1916-D. In the lowest grades these coins cost over \$500.00 and will be hard to distinguish the error. It would be suggested to purchase these through a well known dealer and/or buying only certified coins of this error.

The other well know variety occurred in 1945 and that was a change in the size of the mint mark on San Francisco coins. Called "Micro S", many 1945 dated coins have a smaller mint mark and sell for a slight premium over regular "S" coins.

Proofs.

Proof Mercury dimes are quite beautiful. They were only produced for seven years, from 1936 to 1942. A complete set in Prf-65 condition would cost around \$5,000.00.

About the author

Keith Scott has been a collector for over 30 years and owns a small internet-based coin store at www.mountainviewcoins.com. Visit his website for a history of U.S. coins, metal market updates and news about your favorite coins.

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No Time is Money

By Denny Ross



Being a professional numismatist, dealing in rare coins, for over forty years, has given me the opportunity to experience many unusual events in this great hobby of coin collecting.

I owned and operated a small coin shop in Tacoma, Washington for several years and in that time period I experienced many unusual and rewarding transactions. The coin business in those days was not an extremely lucrative occupation and I supplemented my income by doing clock repairs on wall and mantle clocks. It was on a warm sunny June day that an elderly lady entered my shop carrying a small wooden mantle clock. She approached the counter and set the clock down and asked if I would take a look at her clock and see if it was repairable. She told me that the clock had been in her family for over sixty years and that she had always loved it as a small girl and had saved her pennies in it. I glanced at the clock and noticed a small slot on the top of it. It was not only a clock but also a penny bank. I picked up the clock and turned it around to look at the back of it, as I did I heard the distinctive sound of coins jingling inside of it. She then told me that, as a little girl, her Grandpa would give her a bright shiny new penny on her birthdays, Easter, Christmas and when ever she lost one of her baby teeth. He gave her a new penny on each of these occasions every year until she was fourteen years old, that was when her Grandpa had to leave and go live in heaven. The pennies were still in the clock because the key for the lock had been lost many years ago. I turned the clock upside down and as I did two penny's fell out, thru the slot, and dropped onto the counter. I picked up one of them and noticed it was almost a fully red 1914 S Lincoln cent. I looked at the penny laying on the counter and saw that it was an Indian cent. As I picked it up and examined it I saw it was dated 1908. Turning it over revealed that it had an S mint mark and that it too was nearly full red. I dropped the two penny's back into the slot on the clock. I told her I would be glad to take a look at the clock and see if it was, indeed, repairable and if it was I would fix it for her. She then asked how much it might cost to repair it. I told her that if I could repair it I would just charge her the amount of what ever the

coins were in the clock. She wanted to know how I was going to get the coins out seeing as there was no key to unlock it. I told her it was a simple single tumbler lock and that I could make a key to unlock it. She told me that if I was satisfied with just the coins in the clock that was fine with her. I told her to come back in two days and I should have the clock working, if indeed it was fixable.

My curiosity had been really peaked at seeing the two coins that had fallen out of the clock-bank and I wondered what other treasures the clock might be hiding. I went to work making a new key for the lock so that I could open the bank. I tried the newly made key and when I did, I heard the distinctive click as the lock unlocked. I noticed my hands were shaking as I dumped the coins out of the clock. In all there was twenty-seven cents in the bank, a mixture of Indian and mostly Lincoln cents. Most of the pennies were red or near full red. The earliest date was the 1908 S Indian that had fallen out of the clock earlier and the rest were Lincoln cents dated 1909 thru 1915 all with an S mint mark. It wasn't unusual for them to all be from the San Francisco mint as this was the west coast and most of the coins seen in this area were S mint marked. I then took the clock out of its case and examined it to see if the problem was evident. The Problem was two-fold, one being that the clock works was extremely dirty and in need of being cleaned and oiled and the other problem was that one of the pennies had got caught in the gears of the clock. I wondered what date was on this one as I removed it? I cleaned and oiled the clock and put it back into its case, wound it and it began running perfectly. It was an easy repair and the owner would be pleased that her clock was working once again.

Two days later the owner came back to the shop to retrieve her clock. I told her the problems were minor and that the clock was running as good as new again. She smiled and told me she was pleased to see it working again, after all of these years. She then asked me if I was satisfied with the pennies I had retrieved from the clock. I told her that the twenty-seven cents was more than adequate for the payment to repair the clock. She thanked me, picked up her clock and left the shop. This was one time when no time was money.

"Oh, are you wondering what other dates were in the clock?"

"Well----all I can tell you is--- that the one stuck in the clock gears?"

"Did you think it was an 1909 S V.D.B.?" " No such luck!"

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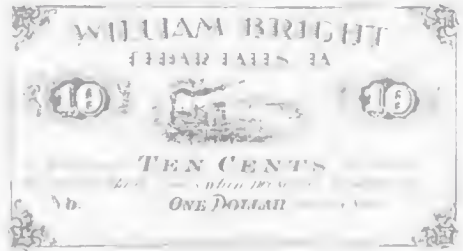
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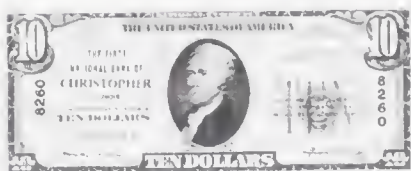
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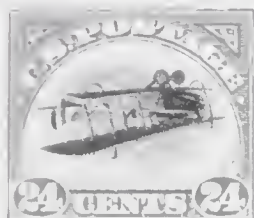
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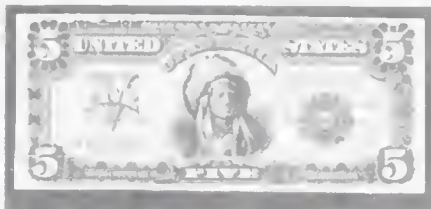
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